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CONTACT:
Mitchell Englander
Chief of Staff
City Hall: 213-485-3343

PRESS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH - DISTRICT 12

January 16, 2004 – **San Fernando Valley**. On the Tenth Anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake, Councilmember Greig Smith and Council President Alex Padilla have introduced a package of seismic safety motions that will continue the ability of the City of Los Angeles to be the safest City in the world in the event of an earthquake, or similar disaster.

The motions ask the City to inventory, then identify and categorize by risk level, concrete, non-ductile buildings built between 1933 and 1972 and open-sided, non-shear-wall parking structures and devise a plan for reinforcement. An additional motion seeks federal funding for a coordinated City and County earthquake and emergency preparedness drill.

Councilman Greig Smith said: "Los Angeles is the seismically-safest city in the world, because of our stringent building and safety codes and our history of emergency preparedness. It is because of these factors that the City of Los Angeles was able to respond faster and recover more quickly from the Northridge Earthquake than any city in any natural disaster in history. Increasing the security of our structures and improving upon our ability to respond to emergencies makes all of us safer and better prepared."

"This package of earthquake-related legislation seeks to identify properties in the San Fernando Valley and throughout the City that need to be earmarked for additional safety measures," said Council President Alex Padilla. "A seismic event that's larger and even more destructive than the Northridge quake of 1994 could happen today, tomorrow, or 25 years from now, and we need to prepare on all fronts to deal with such an emergency."

There were 57 lives lost and more than 8,000 injuries attributed to the 1994 Northridge Earthquake. Billions of dollars were lost due to the damage and destruction of property and infrastructure.